

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on Friday,
14 October 1994, 10:00 a.m., Loyola Campus, Room DL-200.**

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. B. Counihan; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Ms. C. Fortier; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Ms. J. Murray; Mr. D. Elison; Mr. S. Zacharias; Mr. M. Cambridge; Ms. J. Chegrinec, secretary.

Absent: Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. G. Alfred; Mr. R. King; Dr. I.M. Barlow.

1. Introduction of Members: As this was the first meeting of the 1994-1995 academic year, and new people were present, each member introduced her/himself.
2. Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Ms. Grimes, seconded by Ms. Torbit, the agenda was approved.
3. Remarks from the Chair: Dr. Boisvert extended his own welcome to the members. Remarking on the mandate, which had been included in this month's package, he pointed out the importance of Council in regards to issues of the quality of student life. New members were invited to question any aspect of the procedures which were not clear.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of 20 May 1994: On a motion by Mr. Counihan, seconded by Mr. Leib, the minutes were approved.
5. Business Arising from the Minutes: Mr. Leib asked if Mr. Ferguson, the guest from the May meeting, had ever contacted Mr. Counihan to pursue his concerns regarding mature student orientation. Mr. Counihan told him that, although Mr. Ferguson had not called him, he had contacted Prof. Mary Brian and advised her of the matter.

Mr. Zacharias asked about the status of the Child Care Report. Ms. Kerby, Chair of the Task Force, responded - "the report is ready to be written, and should be tabled at CCSL by the December meeting".

6. Appointments to Committees: a) **Planning & Resources Committee** - On a motion by Ms. Fortier, seconded by Mr. Counihan, it was approved that Mr. Zarins would serve as Director Co-Chair, and Ms. Kerby would sit as the other designated Director.

The Chair then explained the mandate of the Committee to new members, and informed Mr. Leib that the schedule would be set by the Committee itself.

On a motion by Ms. Grimes, seconded by Ms. Kerby, Mr. Leib was approved

as student Co-Chair.

It was moved by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Leibu that Ms. Fortier would sit as the staff representative. The students will arrange to fill the other seats.

b) Other Appointments - Mr. Leibu asked about the status of the Para Academic Committee, and was informed that it would be discussed later in the meeting.

It was agreed that there were no other appointments to consider at this time.

Ms. Fortier asked to return to an item considered by the Planning and Resources Committee, namely interest rates for international students. She informed Council that the University receives \$7,000 in interest from these students. Since this is not a lot of money, a strategy will now be developed to attempt to have these interest fees lowered. Mr. Zacharias was informed that the money is collected from approximately 1000 students. As Ms. Kerby pointed out, it is not a lot of money for the University but is a lot of money for international students who already have a difficult time paying expensive fees.

7. **Items of Information:** a) **Student Services Year-End, Fiscal 1993/94 (document attached)** - The Chair briefly informed Council that Student Services ended the 1993/94 fiscal year with a deficit of \$155,529, then opened the floor for questions. Ms. Grimes, Mr. Leibu, Ms. Kerby and Mr. Côté were involved in the following discussion. The revenues generated by Recreation & Athletics were quite impressive, the result of aggressive marketing and better management of funds. However, the department still had the largest deficit of all the Student Service areas because of a number of reasons. The budget was in disarray with a lot of outstanding bills to be dealt with. Also, playoff expenses are not built into the budget; if varsity teams have a good season, which a number of them did this year, then it results in over-expenditure. It is hoped that this factor will be considered in future years.

The Chair informed Council that the deficit will not affect the planned budget, as the University has absorbed it. Dr. Boisvert sent a memorandum to the Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations & Finance explaining the overage. There was a brief discussion on how the annual operating budget of the University may be changed to allow any surplus to be carried over; this would, of course, also apply to any deficit. It was pointed out that although deficits are not desirable, there may be unexpected expenses that go beyond any cushion that may have been built into the budget. The Chair said that he doesn't foresee an increase in student fees to cover any deficit.

The revenue that is showing up in Financial Aid & Awards comes from

internal charges, etc. It is not generated in any way by students.

It was explained that Continuing Education students do not pay Student Services fees, but are able to use Student Service facilities. For this privilege, Cont. Ed. pays \$10,000, recently increased from \$8,000. The University also pays \$100,000 to Health Services so that faculty and staff can have access to their services.

b) Other Items of Information - None.

8. Student Life Issues: Ms. Grimes distributed a document prepared by the student caucus outlining a variety of concerns that have been brought to their attention by students. The document stated the concerns plus a proposed solution for each. Members taking part in the following discussion included: Ms. Grimes; Dr. Boisvert; Mr. Elison; Mr. Counihan; Ms. Murray; Mr. Zacharias; Mr. Leibur; Mr. Côté; Ms. Torbit; Ms. Fortier; Ms. Kerby; Mr. Cambridge; and Dr. Graub.

Marriott - Concerns: a) Kosher Food - limited choice, no hot food, important item - Kosher Food and opposed to Kosher Style; b) Meal Plans - refunds not available; c) Student Employment by Marriott.

Action: a) Dr. Boisvert will contact Mr. C. Macdonald, Director of Supply & Services, on all issues relating to Marriott.

b) Ms. Grimes will see that a small survey is conducted through the student press on what types of food students would like.

c) Dr. Boisvert will attempt to ascertain whether or not the Food Committee is still in existence; if so, he will put forward Mr. Elison's name as student representative.

Mr. Leibur suggested that the question could be attached to the student needs survey currently being prepared. The Chair indicated that it would be best to first contact Marriott, then the issue could be mandated to the Planning and Resources Committee.

On the issue of published course and teacher evaluations, the Chair informed CCSL that the Academic Services Committee had elected to make this issue as one of their priorities for the coming academic year.

The Student Bill of Rights, will be on the agenda for the November CCSL meeting.

Smoking Facility - although aware of the futility at this time of changing the

mind of senior administration towards the introduction of a smoking facility or of having a "free zone" declared in Reggie's and the Campus Bar, Ms. Grimes asked that this issue be entered into the minutes to indicate the ongoing concern of students.

Council was informed that fines were still being discussed to discourage smoking on campus. It was also suggested that the student representative to the Central Health & Safety Advisory Committee raise the issue at a future meeting.

Cost of Textbooks: This is an on-going issue that hasn't improved since its introduction at Council last year. Council asked if the Chair had received any type of response to his 22 November 1993 memorandum to the Deans requesting that faculty members be sensitized to the financial strain placed on students by the cost of textbooks.

Action: Dr. Boisvert will bring these matters to the attention of Ms. L. Lipscombe, Manager of the Bookstore.

Escalators - For the record, the turning off of escalators continues to be a problem. It was pointed out though, that the sheer number of people on the escalators at one time will cause them to stop.

Action: Suggestion be made to Dr. Barlow that signs be posted which explain the consequences of shutting down the escalators manually.

A suggestion was made that the bank of lockers on the 4th floor be relocated or removed completely, as they create a serious traffic congestion problem on and off the escalators.

Shuttle Bus Shelter: During the winter the shuttle bus stop at Loyola be moved to the front of the Campus Centre. This would offer the opportunity for students to wait indoors.

Action: The Chair will forward the proposal to Dr. Barlow and request a response to Council.

Vanier Library: The concern is ... "over one year later the new shelving scheme is still not properly indicated".

Action: Dr. Boisvert will contact Dr. R. Bonin, and request a response to Council.

Photocopiers: The students said that the copiers, specifically on the Loyola Campus, are often out of order and there is an inadequate supply of coin-operated copiers.

Action: As photocopiers come under the supervision of Mr. C. Macdonald, Dr. Boisvert will raise this issue with him.

Financial Aid: Mr. Leibu explained the dissatisfaction that students have with this area, especially in room 185. There are usually long line-ups at the counter, while no line-ups exist in the Financial Aid office. He asked if there has been a proposal that counter personnel be able to interact with each other, and each clerk can respond to questions on any of the services offered. Mr. Côté responded that he has been making this suggestion for sometime, and appreciated the input from the students as this was the type of criticism that they were looking for in the self-appraisal documents.

Action: Mr. Cambridge will contact Mr. Côté to spend time in the Financial Aid Office to better understand the problems and working environment.

At this point, Mr. Leibu introduced the following idea, for discussion: that all aspects of the services area be responsible to CCSL, in the same way that Student Services is.

The discussion that followed found that all members of Council were in agreement with the suggestion, but said that it would result in a major structural change within the University. Mr. Leibu reiterated that the long-term mission has to be greater accountability of the services sector to the students.

Action: The Planning & Resources Committee will examine how to expand the mandate of CCSL and report back to Council.

In the short-term, the following motion was introduced by Ms. Grimes, and seconded by Mr. Counihan:

The Chair of CCSL would invite the following individuals to sit as permanent observers on CCSL: the University Registrar, the Manager of Student Accounts; the Director of Supply & Services, the Manager of the Concordia Bookstores; and the Director of Libraries.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Increased Accessibility for the disabled to Concordia Buildings: Ms. Kerby reported on the work being done. Government money has been received for the first phase which includes access work being done on the following buildings: Hall Building, Central Building, AD Building Bryan Building and Loyola Campus washrooms.

Mr. Elison inquired whether students with learning disabilities were included in this proposal. Ms. Kerby responded that the government does not recognize students with learning disabilities at the University level. The only support for this area comes from Student Services and she admitted that the facilities were not adequate.

Action: Ms. Kerby and Mr. Elison will meet to discuss further the concerns of students with learning disabilities.

24-Hour Study Space: It was asked why the 7th floor of the Hall Building is locked after hours and on weekends as this would be an ideal study space.

Clocks: Another on-going problem. Clocks still are not properly synchronized.

State of Public Bathrooms: although cleaning has improved, problems still remain. Members questioned why there are locked staff bathrooms, and asked that they be open to students.

Action: Dr. Boisvert will ask Dr. Barlow and report back to Council.

TBA (to be announced) Notations in the Course Schedule.

Action: Dr. Boisvert will raise this issue with the Registrar.

i) Axworthy divestment from education: Ms. Grimes reported that a contingency of students will be travelling to Ottawa on 16 November to protest the proposed cutbacks. CSU will be raising the issue with senior administrators to garner support.

ii) Lower Transit Fees: CSU is in negotiations with STCUM to lower the bus tariffs for University students. The Chair suggested that the Planning & Resources Committee could be asked to investigate various methods to gain support.

9. New Business: a) **Student Services Review Process** : A motion was made by Mr. Leibu, seconded by Mr. Zacharias, that CCSL endorse the Student Services Review process as outlined in the document, dated 6 October 1994, as prepared by Dr. Boisvert.

Discussion - Mr. Leibu was informed that the self-appraisal process was finished and that the documents were being forwarded to the Associate Vice-Rector for the first meeting of the Committee which has been scheduled for 21 October. All costs associated with the review will be carried by the Student

Services budget.

The motion was carried unanimously.

b) Credit for Para-Academic Activity: Mr. Counihan distributed the document and a discussion ensued. Mr. Leiby pointed out that the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science would not be able to institute para-academic credit as it would not be recognized by the professional association. In this case, he requested that tuition deferrals be examined.

Action: Mr. Counihan, Mr. Zacharias, Dr. Alfred and Mr. Elison will form a small committee to expand on the initial document and table at CCSL in December for approval.

Action: Dr. Boisvert will inform Mr. J. Noonan, Secretary of Senate that the proposal will be forwarded to Senate in January 1995.

c) Changes to CCSL Composition - The Chair explained that a motion will have to be forwarded to the Board of Governors to make the proposed changes in the composition of CCSL contained in the document. A motion to approve the document was moved by Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Leiby.

Discussion: It was agreed that the Dean of Students would be named Vice-Chair of CCSL, so that he/she could assume the Chair in case of an emergency, or in the absence of the Chair.

Ms. Fortier requested an amendment, seconded by Mr. Leiby, that 2.2 be amended to read "Two full-time Student Services staff members, (1 professional, 1 support)".

Members speaking to the issue were Dr. Graub, Ms. Kerby, Mr. Counihan, Ms. Grimes, Ms. Torbit and Mr. Côté. It was agreed that the changes would become effective for 1995-1996.

The motion was carried as amended.

d) Other Items of New Business: None.

10. Directors' Reports

Health Services: Ms. Torbit distributed copies of the Health ^{NOTES} Notice and Peer Educator Business Cards, and requested feedback. She informed Council that the renovations to the Health Services area on the downtown campus were complete. The Peer Health Educators were contributing another dimension to the services offered by Health Services, and Ms. Torbit is quite pleased with

the results of the programme.

Questions: Mr. Leiby was informed that ^{seven}~~seven~~ intervention courses were being offered on the alcohol policy. The Health Fair will be held in February. The Peer Helpers were preparing sessions on alcohol awareness and sexual assault awareness.

Mr. Cambridge informed Council of the stress presently being experienced by the students in Industrial Engineering. He asked what Health Services could do for these students. He was advised to contact Dr. Graub for further discussion. Dr. Boisvert encouraged the students to speak to any of the Directors who they feel could help them with issues. He informed Mr. Cambridge that he was involved in a team mandated by the Interim Rector to deal with the concerns of the Industrial Engineering students.

Mr. Ellison was informed that, as of yet, stress management was not being addressed directly by Health Services. Counselling & Development is doing some work in this area.

Financial Aid & Awards - Mr. Côté commented on the hardship being experienced by students through new governmental procedures. These procedures result in the monies received by students being broken up into numerous payments instead of one or two.

More casual staff has been hired, which has diminished the line-ups in the Office.

Mr. Côté had prepared a document on the Axworthy report. He pointed out that this was not a position paper, but it raises questions which should be addressed. He is very concerned about how the proposals affect higher education, and sees a shifting of the burden from the Federal government onto the students. He feels this issue has to be debated, and informed Council that the GSA has taken a position on some aspects. He will be meeting with the GSA and requested a similar meeting with CSU.

Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Côté for the report, and said that this issue touches on the earlier concern raised by Ms. Grimes under item #7. He noted that the CSU had asked Dr. Bertrand to respond, but Ms. Grimes said that nothing had yet been forthcoming.

Mr. Côté reiterated that the issues had to be looked at. Some aspects looked interesting to his area, but some aspects were causing major concerns. His office would like to participate in any fora which are held in the University on this issue.

Questions: Mr. Counihan wanted to know if Financial Aid and Awards could handle any emergencies that may arise over the government's new

procedures. Mr. Côté responded that it is very difficult to make \$30,000 go very far when the need far exceeds the capacity.

Mr. Zacharias asked about emergency loans and was told that additional support had been received but that it wasn't enough. Mr. Leibu pointed out a policy problem within Financial Aid & Award that results in part-time students not be eligible for loans and bursaries. He asked what channels of communication were used with the government. Mr. Côté outlined the various lobby groups and committees that are used to gain access to the Ministry but suggested that students become actively involved.

Action: Mr. Leibu will contact Mr. Côté to continue to discuss this issue.

Mr. Leibu then continued by asking if Council could focus on the Axworthy document as it was important that Council take a position.

Action: It was agreed that a group would be formed consisting of Mr. Côté as Chair, Ms. Murray and Ms. Grimes. The group would articulate a position to forward to Senate to adopt as the community response to the Axworthy document. Dr. Boisvert will advise Mr. Noonan that the statement will be forthcoming.

X Mr. Côté agreed with Mr. Zacharias that the proposal is connected with the NAFTA agreement. The proposal develop a market approach to education contending that the student is the consumer; this supports the spirit of NAFTA.

Counselling & Development: Dr. Graub informed Council about the work presently being done in the following areas: a) Outreach Counselling - directed towards the gay and lesbian population; Career Placement is also researching companies that extend a welcome to this population; Stress Counselling - students are questioning the value of their degrees, thanked Mr. Cambridge for his input. b) Graduate Students - until recently most of the energies of the department have been focused on the undergraduate student, there will be a shift in this focus with increased efforts being directed towards graduate students. A programme has been established to help them with placement training, (eg. c.v.'s, etc.).

Questions: Mr. Leibu inquired whether there is any interaction between Career Placement and the Industrial Liaison Office, as well as student initiated efforts. He suggested that a long-term project to help students interface with industry be established.

Dean of Students: Mr. Counihan informed Council that the Dean of Students Office had moved to the 6th floor of the Hall Building, Room 653. The new

student orientation held at the end of August was very successful with 1800 participants.

Questions: Mr. Zacharias was informed that there wasn't an orientation held for students entering in January. January entrants have been invited to participate in the orientation held in the fall, Mr. Counihan said that a mini programme might be a good idea.

Mr. Elison told Mr. Counihan that the residence students were quite pleased with the opportunity to participate in orientation this year, and extended his appreciation of the job done by Ms. K. Osgoode.

Advocacy & Support Services: Ms. Kerby also informed Council about the move of the International Students Office into H-653. The International Students Office also held a special orientation for their new students which was very successful. There is an unusually high number of international students this year. Ms. Kerby informed Council of renovations taking place in the Z annex, which houses Campus Ministry, the Muslim Student Mosque and the Peer Helper Programme. Space has been provided, in the interim, for the overflow of Muslim students worshipping on Fridays, in the old Reggie's space. A search is on for a more permanent location for these students.

Ms. Kerby had surveys for the Personal Safety Audit which she asked people to fill in and return to Ms. McDonald. All of the Advocacy and Support areas are busy.

Questions: Mr. Cambridge stated that there was a concern expressed by exchange students who were having difficulty finding short-term leases. He will meet with Ms. Kerby and Ms. Fortier to discuss further.

Mr. Leibu responded to Ms. Kerby's report of more demands being placed on the services by asking if she was inferring that more resources would have to be allocated in the future. Ms. Kerby said that there would be a definite need for extra resources for learning disabled students in the next 3-year budget cycle.

11. Next Meeting: The next meeting of Council will be held 18 November 1994 at 10:00 a.m. in H-771. It was agreed that Council would attempt to switch its Loyola meetings to AD-131.
12. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Ms. Torbit, seconded by Ms. Grimes, the meeting terminated at 1:45 p.m.